

December 29, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On December 16, 2021 we sent out a communication requesting that all students return to school with a negative PCR COVID test within 72 hours before reporting back to school on Monday, January 3, 2022. However, as you know the COVID pandemic is fluid and due to the recent surge in COVID cases, inadequate number of testing sites, and our desire to keep our students, teachers, staff, and community safe, the Allegheny East Conference has made a decision to have all students return to school **virtually on Tuesday, January 4, 2022**. Monday, January 3, 2022 will now serve as a teachers' work day to give our teachers the opportunity to prepare to instruct students virtually.

At this time, we believe this is the right step to take for the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and the community at large. Our goal is to have students, teachers, and staff return to in-person learning on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 – all students, teachers and staff will be required to provide proof of a negative PCR COVID test. We will continue to monitor infection rates, community spread, and communicate with families in a timely manner of any changes.

The building principals will notify you of procedures on how students can pick up their books and learning materials. If you have any questions, we ask that you please reach out to your principal with individual requests and needs, as they will serve as the first point of contact.

We are asking that you hold fast to the words in Deuteronomy 31:8, where God says, "He will never leave us nor forsake us. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Thank you for your support and understanding as we balance proactive measures of caution and timely communication.

Sincerely,



John C. Alberty, Jr., M.Ed, M.S.-CCC/SLP
Superintendent
Allegheny East Conference Schools

